#### **BEFORE**

#### THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

#### DOCKET NO. 2018-268-T - ORDER NO. 2019-69

#### **FEBRUARY 7, 2019**

IN RE:	Application of Midlands Movers,	)	ORDER GRANTING CLASS E
	LLC for a Class E (Household	)	HOUSEHOLD GOODS
	Goods) Certificate of Public	)	CERTIFICATE WITH
	Convenience and Necessity for	)	STATEWIDE AUTHORITY
	Operation of Motor Vehicle Carrier	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") on the Application of Midlands Movers, LLC ("Applicant" or "Midlands Movers") to amend its Class E (Household Goods) Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPC&N"). Applicant seeks a CPC&N with authority to move household goods throughout the state. Notice of this Application was timely published pursuant to S.C. Code Reg. 103-132 on August 24, 2018. No third parties intervened, and a hearing on the Application was held on January 9, 2019.

The parties at the hearing were the Applicant, represented by Charles L.A. Terreni, and the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS"), represented by Jennie R. Pittman. The ORS informed the Commission it did not oppose Midlands Movers' Application.

Midlands Movers called its President, Lewis Noles, as a witness. Mr. Noles is the sole member and organizer of Midlands Movers. He has been employed as a steel detailer with Nucor Building Systems since May of 2003. He believes South Carolina's rapid population growth will provide an opportunity for his household goods moving business.

Mr. Noles plans to reach customers by advertising in newspapers, social media outlets, and by word of mouth. He does not have any outstanding orders or court judgments against him and agrees to comply with the Commission's rules and regulations.

Applicant is exempt from having a safety rating from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Mr. Noles also testified that there are no complaints or judgments against him or Midlands Movers, he has adequate equipment and facilities to provide moving services, and has adequate financial resources. Midlands Movers will obtain appropriate insurance, as evidenced by the quotes introduced at the hearing. Applicant will use the tariff and bill of lading approved with this Application. Applicant certified that it is familiar with and will comply with all applicable statutes and regulations. Midlands Movers has purchased a truck and will hire part-time workers after appropriate background checks. Mr. Noles plans to grow the business gradually over the next five years.

The Applicant submitted the affidavit of shipper witness, Dawn Cleary, which was given prior to the hearing with permission from the Commission. Order No. 2018-643. Ms. Cleary, a real estate broker with 14 years of experience in South Carolina, testified South Carolina's housing market is strong and cited the 2017 Annual Report on the South Carolina Housing Market of the South Carolina Realtors as support. Affidavit, ¶ 4. Ms. Cleary is frequently asked to recommend movers of household goods, and it can be difficult to find qualified movers who are hardworking and ethical. Id. Ms. Cleary said the public interest would be served by granting a CPC&N to Midlands Movers. Affidavit, ¶ 5. Ms. Cleary is acquainted with the Applicant's principal, Mr. Noles, whom she described as "a

dedicated hard worker who will do a good honest job for the public with integrity". Affidavit,  $\P$  6.

The Commission finds Midlands Movers has demonstrated that it is fit, willing, and able to operate a household goods mover under S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-23-330 and S.C. Code Reg. 103-133. We also find that the public convenience and necessity is not already being served by existing authorized services. Therefore, Midlands Movers' Application for statewide authority should be granted.

#### IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 1. The Application of Midlands Movers, LLC for a Class E (Household Goods) Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is approved for the Applicant to transport household goods to points and places throughout the state. The Final Tariff and Bill of Lading are approved and attached hereto as Order Appendix A.
- 2. Upon compliance with S. C. Code Section 58-23-10 *et seq.*, and the applicable regulations for Motor Carriers, a Certificate will be issued by the Office of Regulatory Staff authorizing the motor carrier services granted herein.
- 3. The motor carrier's services authorized by this Order will not be provided prior to compliance with the above-referenced requirements and receipt of a Certificate.
- 4. Failure of the Applicant to either 1) complete the certification process by complying with the Office of Regulatory Staff requirements within ninety (90) days of this Order, or 2) to request and obtain from the Commission additional time to comply with the requirements stated above, will cause this Order granting the Application to be null and

void, and the Application will be dismissed without prejudice. No further order of this

Commission is necessary.

5. Under the two-month reporting requirement continued in Order No. 2014-

443 (May 21, 2014), the ORS is requested to furnish the name and docket number of the

Applicant to the Commission, should the Applicant fail to meet the requirements of the

present Order. If such notification is provided, the docket will be closed.

6. This Order will remain in full force and effect until further order of the

Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Comer H. "Randy" Randall, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jocelyn Boyd, Chief Clerk/Administrator

# REGULATIONS AND SCHEDULE OF CHARGES APPLICABLE TO

# CERTAIN INTRASTATE HOUSEHOLD GOODS MOVES WITHIN THE

# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

EXHIBIT
1/9/19
4
2018-268-T

Final proposed tariff

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# Midlands Movers, LLC

# South Carolina Household Goods Tariff

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Midlands Movers, LLC

South Carolina Household Goods Tariff

# **Applicability of Tariff**

This tariff contains the regulations and rates applicable to the provision of intrastate household goods moved by Midlands Movers, LLC. These services are furnished between points and places in all South Carolina counties.

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Midlands Movers, LLC

# South Carolina Household Goods Tariff

### SECTION 1

## 1.0 Transportation Charges

Transportation Charges include the hourly rates as listed below.

## 1.1 Hourly Rates and Charges

Moves will be conducted on a "straight time" basis, with a minimum hourly charge as set out below plus actual travel time. The clock starts at the appropriate hourly rate when the movers leave the Midlands Movers, LLC office location, and includes the movers estimate return time to the office location.

Number of Movers	Weekdays	Weekends(Sat.&Sun.)	
Two Men and a Truck	\$100.00	\$120.00	
Three Men and a Truck	\$120.00	\$140.00	
Four Men and a Truck	\$140.00	\$160.00	
Each Additional Man	\$20.00 per man/per hour	\$20.00 per man/per hour	

## 1.2 Office Hours / Minimum Hourly Charges:

Midlands Movers, LLC will operate Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 8:00am – 12:00pm.

Monday- Friday	Two-Hour Minimum Charge
Saturday- Sunday	Four-Hour Minimum Charge
Recognized Federal Holidays	Four- Hour Minimum Charge

After the minimum hourly charge, the hourly rates are calculated in fifteen-minute increments. Any interim charge is rounded up to the next fifteen-minute increment. If customers cancel within 48 hours of their move, Midlands Movers, LLC will charge the applicable minimum. Customers are not charged an additional fee for overtime labor.

#### **SECTION 2**

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# Midlands Movers, LLC

# South Carolina Household Goods Tariff

#### 2.0 ADDITIONAL SERVICES

The following charges shall be assessed in addition to the hourly rates quoted in Section 1 of this tariff, in connection with a move involving additional items:

## 2.1 Bulky Article Charges (per item)

- Floor Model Television (48" or above) \$120
- Pool Tables- \$275
- Gun cabinet \$90
- Steel Gun Cabinet (in excess of 400 lbs.) \$150
- Hot Tubs, Whirlpools \$250
- Riding Lawnmowers- \$120
- Freezers \$90
- Flat Screen Televisions (41" or above) \$70.00
- Golf Carts \$150
- Pianos \$275

#### 2.2 Elevator or Stair Carry

Midlands Movers, LLC does not charge an additional fee for elevator or stair carry, except as specified in Section 2.1 above.

## 2.3 Excessive Distance or Long Carry Charges

Midlands Movers, LLC does not charge an additional fee for carrying articles an excessive distance to or from the motor vehicle.

#### 2.4 Pick Up and Delivery

Midlands Movers, LLC does not charge an additional fee for making additional pick-ups or deliveries after the initial stop.

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Midlands Movers, LLC

# South Carolina Household Goods Tariff

## 2.5 Packing and Unpacking

- 2.5.1 Midlands Movers, LLC does not charge an additional fee for packing and unpacking. The packing rate is the same as the hourly rate listed in Section 1; plus the market price of packing materials, including sales tax on the materials.
- 2.5.2 Midlands Movers, LLC is not responsible for items packed by the customer. Boxes containing fragile or breakable items must be properly labeled. Midlands Movers, LLC reserves the right to decline any moves consisting of extremely large or fragile items.

# 2.6 Articles, Special Servicing

The rates and charges in this tariff do not include servicing or connection of appliances such as freezers, refrigerators, computer equipment, washers, dryers, televisions, and similar articles.

#### 2.7 Waiting Time

The customer is charged the rates specified in Section 1 for all waiting time or delays which are not the fault of Midlands Movers, LLC.

Date Proposed:
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#### **SECTION 3**

## 3.0 RULES AND REGULATIONS

#### 3.1 Claims

- 3.1.1 All claims for loss, damage or overcharge must be written and should be attached to the Bill of Lading.
- 3.1.2 Claimant must notify carrier of all claims for concealed damage within 30 days of the move. Midlands Movers, LLC must be given reasonable opportunity to inspect damaged items.
- 3.1.3 Although our movers will be careful with your possessions, from time to time damages may occur. If damages are caused by our service, Midlands Movers, LLC reserves the right to repair the damage(s) in question. If we determine that damages can not be repaired, we reserve the right to either replace or compensate (actual cash value) for the damage. If there is damage, notify Midlands Movers, LLC immediately. They will complete a Damage Report before they leave your site. If you discover damage after the move, call the office within 30 days of your move. No damage claims will be honored until the charges for moving services are paid in full. You will be asked to sign a Release of Liability acknowledging this.

## 3.2 Computing Charges

Midlands Movers, LLC rates are computed by multiplying the applicable hourly rate by the time as provided in Section 1.

## 3.3 Governing Publications

Midlands Movers, LLC rates and charges are governed by the terms and conditions of this tariff, and the Rules and Regulations of the South Carolina Public Service Commission.

#### 3.4 Items of Particular Value

Midlands Movers, LLC does not assume any liability whatsoever for documents, currency, credit cards, jewelry, watches, precious stones or articles of extraordinary value including accounts, bills, deeds, evidences of debt, securities, notes, postage stamps, stamp collections, trading stamps, revenue stamps, letters or packets of letters, alcoholic beverages, firearms, coin collections, articles of peculiarly inherent or intrinsic value, precious metals or articles manufactured there from. Midlands Movers, LLC will not accept responsibility for safe delivery of such articles if they come into Midlands Movers, LLC's possession with or without Midlands Movers, LLC's knowledge.

Date	Proposed:	
Effec	ive Date:	

# South Carolina Household Goods Tariff

## 3.5 Bill of Lading, Contract Terms, and Conditions

Each customer will be provided with a copy of Midlands Movers, LLC's Bill of Lading. The terms and conditions of the Bill of Lading, attached hereto, are hereby incorporated by reference.

## 3.6 Delays

Midlands Movers, LLC shall not be liable for any delays in transporting household goods resulting from an act of God or fault or neglect of any unforeseen entities.

### **SECTION 4**

#### 4.0 PROMOTIONS

Midlands Movers, LLC shall apply the following promotions, in a uniform and nondiscriminatory fashion:

## 4.1 Military/Senior Citizens

A promotional rate of normal hourly service charges for moving, packing and unpacking items listed below will be applied for customers who are active duty military, disabled veterans, and senior citizens that provide proper proof of same. Extra chargeable items will follow rates in Section 2. 2.1. Moves will be conducted on a "straight time" basis, with a minimum hourly charge as set out in Section 1.2 plus actual travel time. The clock starts at the appropriate hourly rate when the movers leave the Midlands Movers, LLC office location, and the movers estimate return time to the office location. The hourly rates and charges are indicated below:

Number of Movers	Weekdays	Weekends(Sat.&Sun.)
Two Men and a Truck	\$90.00	\$108.00
Three Men and a Truck	\$108.00	\$126:00
Four Men and a Truck	\$126.00	\$144.00
Each Additional Man	\$18.00 per man/per hour	\$18.00 per man/per hour

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# UNIFORM HOUSEHOLD GOODS BILL OF LADING AND FREIGHT BILL

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Midlands Movers, LLC 550 Rose Sharon Drive Lexington, S.C. 29072 (803) 917-1651

## **Final Proposed Bill of Lading**

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#### CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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Ecc. 1. (a) The carrier or party in possession of any of the property herein described shall be liable as at common law for any loss thereof or damage thereto except as hereinafter provided.

- (b) No carrier or party in possession of all or any of the property herein described shall be liable for any loss thereof or damage thereto or delay caused by the act of God, the public enemy, the acts of public authority, quarentine, riots, strikes, perils of navigation, the act or default of the shipper or owner, the nature of the property or defect or inherent vice therein. Except in case of negligence of the carrier or party in possession, no carrier or party in possession of all or any or any part of it is packed, unpacked, or packed and unpacked by the shipper or its agont or the carrier or its agent. Except in case of negligence of the carrier or party in possession, no carrier or party in possession of all or any of the property herein described shall be liable for damage to or loss of contents of pieces of furniture, crates, bundles, cartons, locks, harries or other containers unless such contents are open for the carrier's inspection and then only for such articles as are specifically fisted by the shipper and receipted for by the carrier or its agent.
- (c) Except in case of negligence of the carrier or party in possession, the carrier or party in possession of any of the property herein described shall not be liable of for delay caused by highway obstruction, or faulty or impassable highway, or lack of capacity of any highway, bridge, or ferry, or caused by breakdown or mechan-
- (d) Except in case of negligence of the carrier or party in possession the carrier or party in possession shall not be liable for loss, damage, or delay occurring while the property is stopped and held or stored in transit upon request of the shipper, owner, or party entitled to make such request, whether such request was made before or after the carrier comes into possession of the property.
- (e) In case of quarantine the property may be discharged at the risk and expense of the owners into quarantine depot or elsewhere, as required by quarantine regulations, or authorities, and in such case, carrier's responsibility shall cease when the property is so discharged, or property may be returned by carrier at owner's expense to shipping point earning charges both ways. Quarantine expenses of whatever nature or kind upon or in respect to property shall be borne by the owners of the property or be a lien thereon. The carrier shall not be lishe for loss or damage occasioned by fundgation or disinfection or other acts done or required by quarantine regulations or authorities even though the same may have been done by carrier's officers, agents, or employees, nor for detention, loss, or damage of any deceasioned by the carrier, its agents, or officers, as to quarantine laws or regulations. The shipper shall hold the carriers harmless from any expense they may here or damages they may be required to pay, by reason of the introduction of the property covered by this contract into any place against the quarantine laws or regulations in effect at such place. or damages they may be requirelations in effect at such place.
- Sec. 2. (a) No carrier is bound to transport said property by any particular achedule, vehicle, train or vessel or otherwise than with reasonable dispatch. Every carrier shall have the right in case of physical necessity to forward said property by any carrier or route between the point of shipment and the point of destination. In all cases not prohibited by law, where a lower value than actual value has been represented in writing by the shipper or has been agreed upon in writing as the released value of the property as determined by the classification or tariffs upon which the rate is besed, such lower value shall be the maximum amount to be recovered, whether or not such loss or damage occurs from negligence.
- (c) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (c) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of said meaning that he carrier or party liable on account of said meaning that he carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of said meaning that the carrier has distincted the carrier of said meaning that the carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of said meaning that the carrier has distincted the carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage (d) Any carrier or party liable or damage (d) Any carrier or party lia
- (c) Any carrier or party liable on account of loss or damage to any of said property shall have the full benefit of any insurance that may have been effected upon or on account of said property so far us this shall not avoid the policies or contracts of insurance; provided that the carrier reimburse the claimant for the premium of paid thereon.
- and thereon.

  Sec. 3. Except where such service is required as the result of carrier's negligence, all property shall be subject to necessary cooperage, packing and repacking at war's cost. owner's cost
- Sec. 6. (a) Property not received by the party entitled to receive it within the free time (it any) allowed by tariffs lawfully on file (such free time to be computed as therein provided) after notice of the arrival of the property at destination or at the port of export (if intended for export) has been duly sent or given, and after placement of the property for the party entitled to receive it or at the address given for delivery has been made, may be kept in vehicle, werehouse or place of business of the carrior, subject to the tariff charge for storage and to earlier's responsibilities as werehouseman, only, or at the option of the carrior, may be removed to and stored in a warehouse at the point of delivery or at other available points, at the cost of the owner, and there held without liability on the part of the carrier, and subject to a lien for all transportation and other lawful charges, including reasonable charge for storage. In the event the consignee can not be found at the address given for delivery, then in that event, notice of the placing of such goods of which such property has been placed, subject to the provisions of this paragraph.
- in which such property has been blaced, subject to the provisions of this paragraph.

  (b) Where nonperishable property which has been transported to destination hereunder is refused by consignee or the party entitled to receive it upon tender of delivery or said consignee or party entitled to receive it fails to receive it or claim within 15 days after notice of arrival of the property at destination shall have been duly sent or given, the carrier may sell the same at public auxidion to the highest bidder, at such place as may be designated by the carrier; provided, that the carrier shall have first mailed, sent, or given to the consignor notice that the property has been refused or remains unclaimed, as the case may be, and that it will be subject to sale under the terms of the bill of lading if disposition be not arranged for, and shall have published notice containing a description of the property the name of the place of sale, once a week for two successive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation at the place of sale or remains unclaimed was mailed, sent, or given.

  (c) Where perishable property which has been transported hereunder to destination is refused by consignee or party entitled to receive it, or consignee or party or party to the carrier of the property which has been transported hereunder to destination is refused by consignee or party entitled to receive it, or consignee or party or the carrier.
- (c) Where perishable property which has been transported hereunder to destination is refused by consignee or party entitled to receive it, or consignee or party entitled to receive it shall full to receive it promptly, the carrier may, in its discretion, to prevent deterioration or further deterioration, sail the same to the best advantage at private or public sales provided, that if there be time for service of notification to the consignor or owner of the refuse of the property or the failure to receive it and request for disposition of the property, such notification shall be given, in such manner as the exercise of due diligence requires, before the property.
- (d) Where the procedure provided for in the two paragraphs last preceding is not possible, it is agreed that nothing contained in said paragraphs shall be constructed the right of the currier at its option to sell the property under such circumstances and in such manner as may be authorized by law.
- Q (e) The proceeds of any sale made under this section shall be applied by the carrier to the payment of advances, tariff charges, packing, storage, and any othern lawful charges and the expense of notice, advertisement, sale, and other necessary expense and of caring for and maintaining the property, if proper care of the same requires special expense; and should there he a balance, it shall be naid to the owner of the property sold hereunder.
- (f) Where the carrier is directed to load property from (or reader any services at) a place or places at which the consignor or his agent is not present, the property shall be at the risk of the owner before loading. Where the carrier is directed to unload or deliver property (ar render any services) at the place or places at which the consignee or its agent is not present, the property shall be at the risk of the owner after unloading or delivery.
- Sec. 5. No Carrier hereunder will carry or be liable in any way for any documents, specie, or for any articles of extraordinary value not specifically rated in the oublished classifications or tariffs unless a special agreement to do so and a stipulated value of the articles are endorsed hereon. Sec. 6. Explosives or dangeroos goods will not be accepted for ablument. Every party whether principal or agent shipping such goods shall be liable for and indemnify the carrier against all loss or damage caused by such goods and carrier will not be liable for safe delivery of the shipment.
- sec. 7. The owner or consignee shall have the advances, tariff charges, packing and storage, if any, and all other lawful charges accruing on said property; but, except in those instances where it may lawfully be authorized to do so, no carrier shall deliver or relinquish possession at destination of the property covered by this bill of lading until all tariff rates and charges thereon have been paid. The consignor shall be liable for the advances, tariff charges, packing, storage and all other lawful charges, except that if the consignor stipulates, by signature, in the space provided for that purpose on the face of this bill of lading that the earrier shall not make delivery without requiring such payment, the consignor (except as hereinafter provided) shall not be liable for such charges; Provided, that, where the carrier has been instructed by the shipper or consignor to deliver said property to a consignee other than the shipper or consignor, such consignee shall not be legally liable for transportation charges in respect of the transportation of said property (beyond those billed against him at the time of delivery for which he is otherwise liable) which may be found to be due after the property has been delivered to him, if the consignee (a) is an agent only and has no beneficial title in said property, and, (b) prior to delivery of such adjunct than that specified in the original bill of lading, has also notified the delivering carrier in writing of the fact of such agency and obsence of beneficial title in the case of a shipper or consigner, or, in the case of a shipper or consignee, and in much cases the shipper or consigner, or, in the case of a shipment reconsigned or diverted, the beneficial owner, shall be liable for such additional charges. If the consignee has given to the carrier erroneous information as to who the beneficial owner is, such consignee as all himself be liable for such additional charges. Nothing herein shall limit the right of the carrier to require at time of shipmen or tarrier
- Sec. 8. If this bill of lading is issued on the order of the shipper, or his agent, in exchange or in substitution for another bill of lading, the shipper's signature to the prior bill of lading as to the statement of value or otherwise, or election for common law or bill of lading liability, in or in connection with such prior bill of lading, shall be considered a part of this bill of lading as fully as if the same were written or made in or in connection with this bill of lading.
- Sec. 9. Any alteration, addition or erasure in this bill of lading which shall be made without the special negation hereon of the agent of the carrier issuing this bill of lading shall be enforceship according to its original tenor.